

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 10, 11 have been presented for examination and have been examined.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1-7, 10-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Toshiyuki et al. (JP Pub. No. JP10-042'575; hereinafter “Toshiyuki”).

Independent Claim 1

Applicants amend claim 1 to further clarify claim 1. Amended claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, a clamp unit that clamps a potential difference between the first terminal and the second terminal, wherein the second terminal is not directly connected to the upper arm unit.

In Toshiyuki, the diode 110 is connected between terminals OC/VS0 and VS1. The Examiner contends that VS1 corresponds to the claimed second terminal. The Examiner also contends that T1 corresponds to the claimed upper arm switching element. However, as is seen from Figure 1 of Toshiyuki, VS1 is directly connected to the terminal E1 (emitter terminal of the transistor T1), i.e., VS1 is directly connected to the upper arm of Toshiyuki. Therefore, Toshiyuki does not anticipate claim 1 because claim 1 requires that the second terminal is not directly connected to the upper arm unit.

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of claim 1 *at least* for the above exemplary reasons.

Applicants submit that the remaining dependent claims are patentable *at least* by virtue of their dependency from claim 1.

New Claims

By this Amendment, Applicants add claim 12, which is clearly supported *at least* by Figures 1 and 2.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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